A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B01D53/14 B01D53/50

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B01D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS	CONSIDERED	TO BE RELEVANT

Calegory °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to daim No.
X	US 4 832 936 A (HOLTER HEINZ ET AL) 23 May 1989 (1989-05-23) column 2, line 9 - line 18 column 4, line 35 - line 48; claim 1	1-5
X	US 4 789 532 A (NIELSEN KIRSTEN K ET AL) 6 December 1988 (1988-12-06) column 3, line 55 - line 61 column 4, line 8 - line 16 column 4, line 30 -column 5, line 54	1-5
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ. Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents: 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means 'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	 *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 February 2004	Date of mailing of the international search report 24/02/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tet. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nt, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Cubas Alcaraz, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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